



City of Yonkers Water Bureau

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mike Spano

Mayor

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Yonkers Water Bureau Did Not Meet Treatment Technique Requirement

Our Water System recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do and what was done to correct this situation.

On the evening of October 29, 2012 and early morning hours of October 30, 2012, during Hurricane Sandy, the turbidity on the City of Yonkers Water System's source water, from the New York City (NYC) Water System, exceeded the 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) Maximum Turbidity Treatment Technique Performance Standard for Surface Water Systems operating under Filtration Avoidance. Normal turbidity levels on our source water are Less Than 1 NTU. Monitoring samples collected during this event showed levels of 5.5 NTU at our north central Entry Point, 6.5 NTU at our south central Entry Point and 6.6 NTU at our northeast Entry Point. *Turbidity, a measure of water clarity, has no health effects; its source is soil runoff. However, elevated turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.* Although subsequent monitoring indicated this elevated turbidity only lasted approximately 1.5 hours, *turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms.*

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. We do not know of any contamination and none of our testing conducted throughout our Water System, following this event, has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water. Therefore, there is no reason to stop using the water supplied to you as a result of this violation

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek the advice from your health care provider about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. These microbes include bacteria, viruses and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. Note, these symptoms are not caused only by microbes in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. This incident constitutes a treatment technique violation as specified in the Code of Federal Regulation 40 CFR §141.71(c) (2)(i) and the New York State Sanitary Code Part 5, Subpart 5-1, Section 5-1.30(c) (2). The State has determined that this violation was not a public health hazard but does require Public Notification.

What was done to correct the situation?

The NYC Water System implemented operational changes the night of October 29, 2012 to reduce their elevated source water turbidity levels. Water sampling performed the morning of October 30, 2012 indicated that all Entry Point turbidity levels returned back into compliance, below the 5 NTU level, after approximately 1.5 hours. Throughout the event, City of Yonkers Water Bureau personnel closely monitored the source water chlorine residuals coming in from the NYC Water System to ensure that the Contact Time Inactivation Ratio for the inactivation of *Giardia lamblia* cysts and viruses was satisfactorily achieved before the water reached our 1st customer. As a precautionary measure, City of Yonkers Water personnel increased Entry Point disinfectant (chlorine) residuals to enhance the effectiveness of disinfection. In addition, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection has reported that all the source water provided us, during this event, was also treated with UV light which provides a secondary level of disinfection against potentially harmful microbiological contaminants such as *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. Finally, routine water quality sampling following this event have not detected the presence of disease-causing organisms.

For more information, please contact the City of Yonkers' Water Bureau at (914) 377-6765. This notice is being issued by the City of Yonkers Water Bureau, NY State Water System ID# 5903465.